

A WEB-BASED RESOURCE GUIDE

FOR SOCIAL SERVICE PROVIDERS WORKING WITH CHILDREN AND FAMILIES AFFECTED BY INCARCERATION IN WASHINGTON STATE



Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS)

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SECTION ONE: SOCIAL SERVICE RESOURCES

This section contains social service resources referred to in the on-line training video [“Children of the Incarcerated, their Parents and Caregivers.”](#) Resources are arranged by topic. All words and phrases that are underlined and in blue font are hyperlinks to websites, and you can click on those links for more information.

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SECTION TWO: ARTICLES, HANDOUTS AND DATA FOR SOCIAL SERVICE PROVIDERS AND CAREGIVERS

This section includes research, data, and handouts that provide suggestions and tools for social service providers. It also includes informational pamphlets for caregivers and incarcerated and non-incarcerated parents, links to organizations that work with or advocate for children of the incarcerated and reading lists for families and providers.

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SECTION ONE: SOCIAL SERVICE RESOURCES

General Resources

There is a brochure and website available for both social service practitioners and families that summarizes resources available from the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), other state agencies and nonprofit/community partners. The brochure is called *Beyond the Walls*, and the website and guide are linked below. The website also contains information for social workers on how to effectively communicate with the Department of Corrections and jails regarding services available to incarcerated parents.

In addition to agency services, resources in the brochure and website include:

- Visitation resources, including organizations that help assist families in maintaining contact
- Mentoring and support organizations for youth and families
- Department of Corrections and jails websites and information

[Beyond the Walls: A Guide to Services for Families Affected by Incarceration](#). This link will take you to the DSHS publications site, where this guide can be downloaded at no cost in English and Spanish. If you would like to receive printed copies of this guide, please contact Planning, Performance and Accountability at DSHS at 360.902.7803.

[DSHS Website for Families Affected by Incarceration](#). This link will take you to the DSHS website on children of the incarcerated, their families and caregivers.

[Parent Help 1-2-3](#) and [Washington Information Network 211](#) are also great information clearinghouses to find support services and resources for families.

Connecting Youth to Mental Health and Chemical Dependency Support and Services

Youth that are eligible for Medicaid (medical coupons) can be assessed at mental health agencies contracted through the Regional Support Networks (RSNs), to determine what services might be available.

To determine where you or a client should go for assistance to meet mental health needs, call the [Crisis line number for your county](#).

For a description of mental health services that are provided through the RSNs, and information on youth outpatient, inpatient and residential treatment facilities, [click here](#).

For referrals to chemical dependency treatment, call the Alcohol/Drug Helpline: 1-800-562.1240 (within Washington State) or 206-722-3700 (from Seattle or out of Washington State).

For more information on chemical dependency treatment, including “Frequently Asked Questions About Treatment,” and a “Screening Questionnaire for Adolescents,” [click here](#).

View the list of [certified chemical dependency service providers](#) in Washington State.

To find out more about [substance abuse prevention services](#), read about The Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse’ Prevention Program, including a resource kit and information on prevention programs across the state.

Juvenile Rehabilitation Services

The Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration (JRA) uses an Integrated Treatment Model in their residential and parole programs that draws from cognitive-behavioral therapy and family therapy. [Click here](#) to read more about this model.

For those youth that receive parole after release, JRA uses a service model called [Functional Family Parole](#). Youth and families that qualify for parole receive between 5 and 6 months of services. JRA also connects youth to mentors and other therapeutic programs.

Some low-risk youth are placed into JRA’s [Residential Treatment and Care Program \(RTCP\)](#) as an alternative to placement in a secure institution. Youth are placed in specialized foster homes using Multi-dimensional Treatment Foster Care.

JRA is working with other partners to reduce disproportionate minority contact and confinement. For more information on this initiative, [click here](#).

For a directory of regional offices and information about each of JRA’s facilities, including location, [click here](#). JRA youth also reside in six [group homes](#), some of which have specialized mental health and/or chemical dependency foci. These homes help transition JRA youth back into the community.

Victim/Witness Services

If you are assisting someone who has been a victim of a sexual assault or violent crime, the [DSHS Victim/Witness Notification Program](#) can help victims and witnesses track the location of the person who victimized them, and notify them when the perpetrator is released, transferred or escapes from a DSHS facility (including the [Special Commitment Center](#) for sexual predators, Washington State Psychiatric Hospitals, or a juvenile facility).

[The Department of Correction’s Victim Services program](#) offers notification of victims and witnesses when offenders convicted of serious crimes are released or moved within the prison system. They also offer opportunities for victims and witnesses to provide feedback regarding release and transition planning of offenders, safety planning and meetings between victims and offenders (by request). Crime victims may be eligible for compensation through the Department of Labor and Industries’ [Crime Victims Compensation Program](#). Many jails participate in the [VINE](#) program, through which victims of crime can be notified of moves and releases from jail of perpetrators of crimes.

[DSHS' Domestic Violence Program](#) provides support for community-based shelters, emergency counseling and legal advocacy, and certifies provider programs. To find programs to treat perpetrators, [click here](#). For a referral to services including domestic violence shelters, call the Washington State Domestic Violence Hotline at 800-562-6025. For more information about domestic violence services, go to the [Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence](#). For a statewide resource directory of programs for victims/survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and/or stalking, to go the [Washington Violence Against Women Network](#).

[Legal Voice](#) is a source of information and referrals for low-cost legal support. It is primarily focused on women and their children, but provides information relevant to all families on family law and criminal justice.

Economic, Medical and Childcare Services

Applications for services below can be made through DSHS' [Community Services Offices](#), or through an [online application for benefits](#).

- **TANF**

[Temporary Assistance for Needy Families](#) (TANF) provides cash and medical support for qualifying families. Caregivers of children who have an incarcerated parent can receive TANF grants regardless of income ("[non-needy grant](#)"). Non-related adults caring for children "in the place of a parent" may also be eligible. Child support cases are automatically opened to help the state pay for the cost of TANF, if there is/are non-custodial parent(s). However kinship caregivers can request that child support not be pursued from a non-custodial parent if it would impact the safety of their home and family (called a "good cause decision to not pursue"). DSHS also operates [emergency services programs](#) through the Community Services Offices (CSOs) that provide assistance to eligible families dealing with eviction, lack of food, homelessness, pregnancy medical issues, utility shut off, domestic violence, medical emergencies, non-receipt of benefits, daycare needed due to work, or circumstances that present harm to the client or others.

- **Medical Assistance**

There are multiple medical assistance programs funded and administered by the state. Many programs require individuals to be covered by Medicaid. To find out if your client is eligible for Medicaid, [click here](#). [Healthy Options](#) is a Medicaid managed care program for adults and families, including children eligible for the [State Children's Health Insurance Program \(SCHIP\)](#). The [First Steps](#) program provides medical and support services for pregnant women. [Apple Health for Kids](#) provides health coverage and affordable health care for children in families with higher income limits. The [Family Planning](#) program provides birth control and family planning services for Medicaid-eligible women and men. Adults who qualify for the [General Assistance-Unemployable \(GAU\)](#) program receive [GAU managed care](#) health coverage. DSHS medical programs pay for [transportation services](#) to get clients to and from needed non-emergency healthcare programs. Medicaid clients receive mental health benefits and chemical

dependency services (see section above). DSHS medical programs also include a [Smoking Cessation](#) benefit.

[Washington Basic Health](#) is a state-sponsored program that provides low-cost health care coverage through private health plans.

- **Food Assistance**

[Basic Food](#) is the state's food stamp program, which many families do qualify for. Participation in Basic Food also includes enrollment in free school meals for school-aged children, and qualification for low-cost local phone services. Families that meet requirements for Basic Food also qualify for the [Women Infants and Children \(WIC\)](#) nutrition program. If a client qualifies for food assistance, they will receive an [Electronic Benefits Transfer \(EBT\)](#) card, otherwise known as a Quest Card. Clients may also benefit from visiting food banks. To see a map of food banks across the state, [click here](#).

- **Subsidized Telephone Service**

The [Washington Telephone Assistance program \(WTAP\)](#) helps low-income households afford telephone services. WTAP discounts phone service, and for those who are not able to get a traditional phone, WTAP also provides no-cost community voice mail.

- **Subsidized Childcare**

[Working Connections Child Care](#) helps eligible families pay for childcare. To find child care providers in your area, contact the [Washington State Child Care Resource and Referral Program](#).

- **Residential Parenting Program**

[The Residential Parenting Program](#) at the Department of Correction's Washington Correction Center for Women ([WCCW](#)) allows pregnant, minimum security inmates with sentences of less than 30 months the opportunities to keep their babies with them after giving birth. Children there receive Early Head Start services, and services are supported through specialized financial services from DSHS. Currently those women who have previous Child Protective Services (CPS) involvement are not eligible for this program.

- **Expedited Medical Assistance**

Under [HB 1290 \(2005\)](#), offenders who received medical coupons prior to incarceration are able to be referred prior to release to re-instate their medical coverage, so that they can have medical coverage when they are released. The correctional facility (DOC prison or county jail) needs to refer the offender to DSHS prior to release by looking them up through a free database available from DSHS, the Expedited Medical Determination database ([EMD](#)). This database will tell the correctional facility if they've received medical coupons in the past. If so, they can be referred to coordinators from the Economic Services Administration (ESA) in each geographic area that receives those referrals to process those benefits.

Child Support Services

- **Resources for Caregivers**

If a caregiver chooses to not receive TANF to help care for the child in their home with an incarcerated parent, they can choose to [open a child support case](#) in order to help pay for the cost of caring for the child. [The Division of Child Support](#) can also help [establish paternity](#).

- **Information on modifying child support orders**

Regardless of whether they are incarcerated or not, child support debt continues to accrue if child support is unpaid. Therefore it is very important to help parents that are incarcerated or recently released communicate with the Division of Child Support. Non-custodial parents that have a high or unmanageable debt can request a [modification of their child support order](#) so that their payments can be reduced. If the non-custodial parent requests a [Conference Board](#) hearing, a portion of the debt to the state may be reduced, depending on circumstances. Individuals should start the process by speaking to their local [Division of Child Support office](#).

Kinship Caregiver Supports

DSHS operates a [Kinship Caregivers Support Program](#) (KCSP) in each county, assisted by [Kinship Care Navigators](#) that provide support and resource referrals to kinship caregivers. The KCSP provides short-term supports (funds) for relative caregivers that are not involved in the child welfare system- for food, housing, clothing, school supplies and legal services. They also refer kinship caregivers to state and community resources. Relatives raising children are eligible for “non-needy” TANF grants (financial support regardless of income). For more information see the “economic supports” section above.

Kinship caregivers that are working with child welfare may benefit from reading the [Relative’s Guide to Child Welfare Services](#).

Foster Parent Supports

[Foster parents](#) receive free [training](#) from Children’s Administration. In addition to foster parent HUB support groups (contact [Children’s Administration](#) for more information), foster parents can find support from the [foster parent and relative caregiver crisis support lines](#), and the Foster Parents Association of Washington State ([FPAWS](#)).

Developmental Disabilities Services

The [Division of Developmental Disabilities \(DDD\)](#) provides services to those with developmental disabilities. The [Infant Toddler Early Intervention Program \(ITEIP\)](#) provides services to children with developmental disabilities age birth to three. ITEIP also provides assessments for children who may have developmental concerns.

Department of Corrections

- **DOC Inmate Locator**

To find an inmate in a Department of Corrections (DOC) prison, go to the web-based [DOC inmate locator](#). It helps to have the inmate's full name, date of birth and DOC number.

- **Community Partnership Program Coordinators at Prisons**

The best contact for social workers at prisons to discuss services currently available for inmates is each facility's [Community Partnership Program Coordinator \(CPPC\)](#). You can also contact the CPPC in the facility with the inmate you are working with to ask them to communicate with the inmate's correctional counselor and to find out from them what services they are engaging in.

- **Visitation and Facility Information**

In order to coordinate a visit at a DOC facility, first [read about the visitation program](#) and how to receive approval for visitors to come to facilities, and the rules on [visiting with a minor](#). Then go to [the websites for the prison facilities](#) to learn more about the visitation days, times and procedures for the facility you want to visit. If you or others are corresponding with an inmate, read about how to [send mail to an offender](#). For more information on communicating with inmates via telephone, [click here](#). To read more about DOC's Family and Friends Services, go the [Family and Friends webpage](#).

For assistance in working with a parent that has been released and is on probation, speak with their probation officer. Services for adults and families are provided in the community through DOC's [Community Justice Centers \(CJs\)](#). DOC probation officers are also stationed in [field offices](#).

Finding and Working with a Parent in Jail

- **Jail Websites**

Click on the name of the county to go to or connect to the jail website and/or jail roster for that county jail. Note: not all counties have websites, and/or rosters. If a jail does not have an online roster, call the jail and speak with the Sheriff. Go to the website or call the jail for information on visitation procedures and hours, and available services.

[Adams County](#), [Asotin County](#), [Benton County](#), [Chelan County](#), [Clallam County](#), [Clark County](#), [Columbia County](#), [Cowlitz County](#), [Douglas County](#), [Ferry County](#), [Franklin County](#), [Garfield County](#), [Grant County](#), [Grays Harbor County](#), [Island County](#), [Jefferson County](#), [Kitsap County](#), [King County](#), [King County \(jail locations and visitation\)](#), [Kittitas County](#), [Klickitat County](#), [Lewis County](#), [Lincoln County](#), [Mason County](#), [Okanogan County](#), [Pacific County](#), [Pend Oreille County](#), [Pierce County](#), [San Juan County](#), [Skagit County](#), [Skamania County](#), [Snohomish County](#), [Spokane County](#), [Stevens County](#), [Thurston County](#), [Wahkiakum County](#), [Walla Walla County](#), [Whatcom County](#), [Whitman County](#), [Yakima County](#).

- **JBRS System**

Some agencies have access to the [Jail Booking and Reporting System \(JBRS\)](#), which pulls in information from county jails and provides information on where jail inmates are, how long they will be in the jail, past home addresses and other pertinent information. To request access to JBRS, contact the [Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs \(WASPC\)](#).

Housing

The Department of Commerce provides funding and lists contact information for [emergency shelters and affordable housing programs](#). Find [affordable housing](#) in Washington State, or look for housing resources by county through the [Washington State Coalition for the Homeless](#) (scroll to bottom of page)

School Systems

The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) established a [Children of Incarcerated Parents Support Program](#) to help improve school services to children of the incarcerated. Contact their staff liaison (on website) for more information about working with the school systems on this issue.

Employment

Ex-offenders who have re-entered their community can contact the Employment Security Department's [Offender Employment Services](#) program for assistance in job placement.

Veteran's Services

If an incarcerated or recently released parent is a veteran, they and/or their children may qualify for benefits and counseling from the [Washington State Department of Veteran's Affairs](#). They also run programs in some parts of the state assisting incarcerated veterans.

Community Supports and Services

- **Mentoring Organizations**

Mentoring can significantly help children who are facing the incarceration of a parent. There are multiple organizations that provide mentoring to children of the incarcerated.

[Caregivers Choice](#) is a national program that can help families find mentoring programs in their area and provides funding to some mentoring programs.

The [DSHS Statewide Mentoring Partnership](#) provides mentoring resources to families and agencies.

[Big Brothers/Big Sisters](#) operates a Mentoring Children of Promise program that provides mentors to children with parents in state prison. Go to their website and enter in the zip code of the child that needs mentoring to find the office you need to contact.

Girl Scouts of America operates a [Girl Scouts Beyond Bars](#) program for daughters of incarcerated mothers. Supportive activities are combined with supervised and meaningful visitation.

Boy Scouts of America operates a Children Of Incarcerated Parents (COIP) program, for sons of incarcerated parents. Supportive activities are combined with visitation. Contact the [Boy Scouts of the Chief Seattle Council](#) and ask for the contact for the COIP program.

[Volunteers of America](#) operates a Mentoring Children of Promise program for children of incarcerated parents in several areas of the state.

[Goodwill Industries Inland Northwest](#), in partnership with other organizations, operates a Mentoring Children of Promise program in the greater Spokane area.

[Powerful Voices](#) provides mentoring to young women in juvenile justice facilities, including youth mothers.

[Mentoring Children of Incarcerated Parents](#) (MCIP) provides mentoring to children of incarcerated parents in the Walla Walla area.

- **Organizations that Help with Visitation or Contact Between Parents and Children**

Volunteers of America operates a [Words Travel Family Connection](#) program, which works with incarcerated parents to tape them reading books to their children, which are then sent to their children to listen to.

[Rebuilding Families Inc.](#) (RFI) works with eligible women to help them re-enter their community. RFI also offers “The Little Bus that Could” visitation program that busses children to women’s prisons to help mothers rebuild a trusting relationship with their children.

[Matthew House](#) supports the families of people incarcerated in Washington’s prisons with a clothing closet, a food pantry, shelter in three apartments, transportation to prisons, childcare and adult counseling.

COMPASS/Green Park School provides mentoring, support groups, video/web visiting, parent education, re-entry support, information and referrals. Contact COMPASS by emailing: mkhause@bmi.net, or call (509) 527-3077.

SECTION TWO

ARTICLES, HANDOUTS AND DATA FOR SOCIAL SERVICE PROVIDERS AND CAREGIVERS

State and National Data, and Research on Children of the Incarcerated

- **General Summaries for Providers**

[Children of DOC Incarcerated Parents Use DSHS Services at Very High Rates](#) (DSHS 2008). This link will take you to a report issued in August 2008 by DSHS' Research and Data Analysis Division. It includes initial data that matches DSHS data sources to DOC and Department of Health data, to provide information on what services children of incarcerated parents receive, and where they live within the state of Washington.

[Children and Families with Incarcerated Parents](#): Exploring Development in the Field and Opportunities for Growth (Bouchet, Annie E. Casey 2008). This document summarizes research on children of the incarcerated and their families, primarily foundation research. It also summarizes challenges and offers recommendations to address the needs of children and families of the incarcerated.

[Focus on Children with Incarcerated Parents: An Overview of the Research Literature](#) (Hairston, AECF 2007). This reviews research, information and implications of research on children of the incarcerated, including visitation, the impact on children and other consequences of incarceration, stigma, child development, factors affecting child behaviors, family reunification, effective programs for children and their parents and social service practice guidelines.

[Incarcerated Parents and Their Children: Trends 1991-2007](#) (The Sentencing Project 2009). This report documents the increase in parental incarceration, demographics of parents and children, and visitation/contact.

- **Child Welfare**

[Rebuilding Families, Reclaiming Lives: State Obligations to Children in Foster Care and their Incarcerated Parents](#) (Allard and Lu, Brennan Center for Justice, NYU 2006). This child welfare-focused report summarizes the benefits of preserving relationships between children and their incarcerated parents, and the barriers to family reunification. It also reviews federal and state child welfare laws affecting children of the incarcerated.

[Children of Incarcerated Parents Fact Sheet](#) (Casey 2008). This fact sheet summarizes national statistics on children of the incarcerated and child welfare outcomes for them and their families.

[National Association of Social Workers: Children with Incarcerated Parents](#). This website contains numerous links to articles on this topic in child welfare and social services in general, including specific sections on incarcerated fathers, incarcerated mothers and kinship care.

[Kinship Care When Parents Are Incarcerated: What We Know, What We Can Do](#) (Hairston, AECF, 2009). This article reviews research related to kinship care, with a focus on child welfare, and discusses how to help families adjust, cope, manage the caregiver/parent relationship, and understand the effects of changing family arrangements.

[Family to Family, Tools for Rebuilding Foster Care: Partnerships Between Corrections and Child Welfare, Collaboration for Change Part Two](#). This article summarizes ways in which child welfare social workers and child welfare systems can work more effectively and in collaboration with correctional institutions in order to improve child welfare and corrections outcomes.

[Intersection of Corrections and Child Welfare Fact Sheet](#) (Family to Family and SFCIPP). This document summarizes statistics on the overlap between families involved in correctional systems and families involved in child welfare.

[What we Know Now that we Didn't Know Then about the Criminal Justice System's Involvement in Families with whom Child Welfare Agencies have Contact: Findings from a Landmark National Study](#) (Phillips and Gleeson, UIC 2007). This research brief from the Jane Addams School of Social Work summarizes an extensive study on the involvement of families in both correctional and child welfare systems, and implications of this information for practice and policy.

[Out of the Shadows: What Child Welfare Workers Can Do to Help Children and their Incarcerated Parents](#) (*Reaching Out*, UC Davis 2008). This edition of a journal based in California is designed for child welfare social workers. It has sections on visitation, helping children adjust, facilitating visits and suggestions for parents during visits, as well as challenges families face in child welfare systems.

- **Articles for Treatment and Prevention Providers**

[The Adverse Childhood Experience \(ACE\) Study](#) (Felitti and Anda et al). This monumental study uses a simple scoring method to determine the extent of study participant's exposure to childhood trauma (ACEs). They then followed up on the short and long-term health effects (physical and psychological) on study participants. An ACE is defined as an experience of a childhood trauma, which includes forms of abuse and exposure to violence as well as the incarceration of a household member. The website also includes an [article summarizing results](#) of the study.

[The Effects of Childhood Stress On Health Across the Lifespan](#) (US DHHS CDC 2008). This report succinctly summarizes the short and long-term effects on children of chronic and/or severe stress, including incarceration of a family member. Data focuses on the results of the Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) Study.

[Children of Incarcerated Parents, Responding to the Needs: Surveying the Landscape of Programs and Services](#) (Adalist-Estrin 2008) This powerpoint presentation takes a trauma-focused approach in summarizing the experiences of children of the incarcerated while suggesting directions for service providers and policy makers.

[Broken Bonds: Understanding and Addressing the Needs of Children with Incarcerated Parents](#) (Vigne, Davies, Brazzell, Urban Institute 2008). This report summarizes the changes in daily life that incarceration of a parent can bring to a family, the emotional and behavioral impact on children and protective factors that help children build resilience.

[Parental Incarceration and Child Wellbeing in Fragile Families](#) (Fragile Families Research Brief, Princeton/Columbia 2008) This paper summarizes an extensive study of urban families who have had an incarcerated parent, including effects on economic outcomes, family stability, child development and other factors.

[Families Left Behind: The Hidden Costs of Incarceration and Reentry](#) (Travis, McBride, Solomon, Urban Institute 2005). Oriented towards social service providers, this report summarizes developmental effects of parental incarceration on children, how imprisonment alters family dynamics, challenges and benefits of visitation and contact, challenges of reunification and reintegration and the role that families can play in providing support and stabilization.

[The Antisocial Behavior of the Adolescent Children of Incarcerated Parents: A Developmental Perspective](#) (Eddy and Reid, OSLC, 2002). This study summarizes the relationship between parent's criminality and the antisocial behaviors of some adolescents with incarcerated parents, behaviors and symptoms that children and youth display when a parent is incarcerated, the effect of education programs in prison for parents, and effective interventions that can assist adolescent children of the incarcerated.

[Childhood Loss and Behavioral Problems: Loosening the Links](#) (Viboch, Vera 2005). This article explains the connection between parental incarceration and child misbehavior, the effects of grief and loss, responding effectively to children's feelings of loss, helping kids understand parental incarceration, and fostering stability and security for children.

[Risk and Resilience in Young Children of Incarcerated Mothers](#) (Poehlman, NIDA conference presentation 2006). This article summarizes research on children with incarcerated mothers, including mother's offenses, developmental risks for children, children's developmental outcomes, attachment issues for children, the impact of caregivers on children of the incarcerated, children's problem behaviors by gender, and factors that increase the resilience of children.

[What Health and Wellness Professionals Need to Know When Working with Children with Incarcerated Parents](#) (Hope House 2008). This article outlines the critical role social service providers play in

identifying and supporting children who have a parent in jail or prison, and the key issues such providers need to understand in order to make a difference for these children.

Handouts and Resources for Families and Caregivers

Most of the following informational brochures and handouts for caregivers, families, parents and providers were produced by the Family and Corrections Network (FCN).

[How to Explain Jails and Prisons to Children: A Caregivers Guide](#) (OR Dept. of Corrections). This booklet contains suggestions for caretakers on how to discuss incarceration with a parent with a young child, and a “story” to read with children to help explain basic concepts.

[Visiting Tips for Families: Supporting Children Visiting their Parents](#) (Osbourne Association). This handout provides helpful tips and information for caregivers and custodial parents on helping children understand and gain positive results from visiting an incarcerated parent.

[What Do Children of Prisoners and their Caregivers Need?](#) (Adalist-Estrin, FCN). This handout summarizes in straightforward language what caregivers and children of prisoners need to help improve their outcomes.

[Visiting Mom or Dad: The Child’s Perspective](#) (Adalist-Estrin, FCN). This handout summarizes what caretakers or visitation providers need to know about the experience of children visiting jails or prisons.

[Caring for Children of Prisoners](#) (Adalist-Estrin, FCN). This pamphlet provides helpful information for caregivers and social service providers on the challenges children face at each stage of development when a parent is incarcerated.

[Tips for Caregivers- from Caregivers](#) (Adalist-Estrin, FCN). This pamphlet includes tips for caregivers for those who have “been there,” including tips on how to discuss issues with family members.

[Questions from Caregivers](#) (Adalist-Estrin, FCN). Frequently asked questions from caregivers are answered, including suggestions on how to address common problems with children.

[Communication Tips for Prisoners and Their Families](#) (Adalist-Estrin, FCN). This is a helpful pamphlet for parents to help guide their interactions with their children during in-person visits and other forms of contact.

[Why Maintain Relationships?](#) (Adalist-Estrin, FCN). This handout summarizes the advantages for children and families of maintaining contact and visiting.

[When your Grandchild's Parent is in Prison](#) (AARP 2009). This article provides needed information for grandparents who are raising grandchildren with incarcerated parent(s).

Other state or national organizations that provide support or information

[Family and Corrections Network](#) (FCN) offers resources and referrals for kinship caregivers and others with incarcerated family members.

The [Center for Children with Incarcerated Parents](#) (CCIP) provides counseling and support services for prisoners and their children.

The [National Institute of Corrections](#) offers extensive information and resources for inmates and their families.

The [Offender Preparation and Education Network Inc.](#) (OPEN) provides self-help resources and other information for offenders and families.

The [San Francisco Children of Incarcerated Parents Partnership](#) offers training and resources as well as information on their "Children of Incarcerated Parents Bill of Rights" project.

[Pennies for Prison](#) offers networking, information and supports.

[Foreverfamily](#) promotes effective family-oriented services.

[Lives in Focus: Family Life Behind Bars](#) offers extensive networking and other information for families affected by incarceration.

[The National Incarcerated Parents and Families Network](#) (NIPFN) offers on-line support for families.

[Legal Services for Prisoners with Children](#) (LSPC) provides information, referrals and advocacy for prisoners with children.

Reading Lists for Children, Caregivers and Providers

There are two book lists below; one for books for children, and another booklist for adults and providers. Following these lists is a short list of videos on the experience of children of incarcerated parents and offender reentry issues.

BOOKS FOR CHILDREN

The following books are written to help children understand the experience of having a mother or father in prison or jail. When a parent or caregiver reads these books to children, it can help create the

opportunity to talk more about the child's feelings and experiences to help them process and cope with their feelings.

Title: A Terrible Thing Happened

Author: Margaret Holmes (Magination Press, 2000)

"This gently told and tenderly illustrated story is for children who have witnessed any kind of violent or traumatic episode...an afterword for parents or caregivers offers extensive suggestions for helping traumatized children."

Title: My Daddy is in Jail

Author: Janet Bender (YouthLight Inc. 2008)

"This is a long overdue resource for helping children cope with the incarceration of a loved one. It includes a read-aloud story, discussion guide and optional small group counseling activities."

Title: What is Jail, Mommy?

Author: Jackie Stanglin (Lifevest publishing 2006)

"This book was inspired by a much-loved five year old whose father has been incarcerated most of her life. One day after visiting...this little girl blurted out to her mother in frustration, 'What is jail anyway and why can't Daddy be home with us?'"

Title: When Andy's Father Went to Prison

Author: Martha W. Hickman (Whitman and Company 1990)

This book illustrates the experiences of a young boy whose father went to prison, including his experiences at home and at school. Told in an age-appropriate way, detailing challenges and how he received help.

Title: Visiting Day

Author: Jacqueline Woodson (Scholastic Press 2002)

"On visiting day, a little girl and her grandmother take the long bus ride upstate to visit her father. On the ride they share food and hope and give comfort to others...Grandma and the little girl count their blessings...and wait for the time when Daddy will come back home." This book has rich illustrations and features an African-American family.

Title: Mama Loves Me from Away

Author: Pat Brisson (Boyds Mills Press, 2004)

"A heartbreaking yet loving story about a mother and a child separated by a prison and about how they try to stay in touch despite the physical distance between them."

Title: When a Parent Goes to Jail: A Comprehensive Guide for Counseling Children of Incarcerated Parents

Authors: Rebecca Yaffe and Lonnie Hoade (Rayve Productions Inc., 2000)

"This book could be used with individuals or small groups of children in therapeutic settings, but it also has a place on the shelf of every school and public library...to help children discuss and come to terms with having a parent in jail." This is a book to read with children to help them understand their parent's situation and their feelings.

Title: When I'm Away

Author: women of the Washington Corrections Center for Women, WA

This is a coloring book created by WCCW for children who visit loved ones at WCCW. It includes pictures of life in the prison. "The intent of this book is to replace movie perceptions of horrors inmates encounter with the realities of life at WCCW. Children knowing the actual living situation for women at the prison should lessen their concern about their loved one's safety."

BOOKS FOR CAREGIVERS AND PROVIDERS

Title: All Alone in the World

Author: Nell Bernstein (New Press, 2005)

This groundbreaking book by someone who grew up with an incarcerated father includes stories and perspectives from the families and children affected by incarceration, in addition to suggestions for policy makers and social service providers.

Title: Children of Incarcerated Parents

Editors: Katherine Gabel and Denise Johnston (Lexington Books 1995)

"Children of criminal, jailed or imprisoned parents have long been identified as being at high risk for juvenile delinquency...this one of a kind book outlines for professionals working with these children the

optimum time to provide intervention following significant trauma, and shows that direct preventative and early intervention services to children of offenders can help them.”

Title Family Arrested

Author: Ann Edenfield (Americana 2002)

This is a highly useful summary written for families by a woman who had her husband incarcerated for many years. It offers tips for families on how to survive economically and emotionally.

Title: Mothering from the Inside: Parenting in a Women’s Prison

Author: Sandra Enos (SUNY Press, 2001)

“Based on research conducted in a women’s prison, Mothering from the Inside reveals how inmate mothers find places for their children to live, manage relationships with caregivers, demonstrate their fitness as mothers and negotiate rights to their children under challenging circumstances. The impact of race, ethnicity and marginality on women in prison is traced through the development of the women’s motherhood careers.”

Title: Prisoners Once Removed: The Impact of Incarceration and Reentry on Children, Families and Communities

Editors: Jeremy Travis and Michelle Waul (Urban Institute Press, 2003)

“Prisoners Once Removed is the first book to comprehensively address the difficult issues of parenting behind bars and fostering successful family relationships after release... [including information for] researchers, policymakers, human service providers and activists.”

Title: Loving Through Bars: Children with Parents in Prison

Author: Cynthia Martone (Santa Monica Press, 2005)

“Written by an experienced public school administrator...[this book] offers a searing and poignant view of some of the estimated 2.3 million children in the United States who have a parent in prison, presenting their particular plights through a series of powerful stories.”

Title: Doing Time Together: Love and Family in the Shadow of the Prison

Author: Megan Comfort (University of Chicago Press, 2008)

“Doing Time Together vividly details the ways that prisons shape and infiltrate the lives of women with husbands, fiancés and boyfriends behind bars. Megan Comfort spent years getting to know women visiting men at San Quentin State Prison...tangling with the prison’s intrusive scrutiny and rigid rules turns these women into quasi-inmates, eroding the boundary between home and prison...yet Comfort also finds that with social welfare weakened, prisons are the most powerful public institutions available to low-income women struggling to overcome untreated social ills...”

Title: War on the Family: Mothers in Prison and the Families They Leave Behind

Author: Renny Golden (Routledge, 2005)

“Reporting from the front line of the war on drugs, with an eye on collateral damage and sustained resilience, Golden offers the United States a terrifying mirror on the consequences of mass incarceration policies and post-release disenfranchisement.”

Title: The Criminal Justice System and Women: Offenders, Prisoners, Victims and Workers (3rd edition)

Editors: Barbara R. Price and Natalie J. Sokoloff (McGraw Hill, 2004)

“Consisting of original essays from leading scholars (especially criminologists and feminists), and a number of recently published articles in the field, this book provides a comprehensive overview of how women both affect and are affected by crime and the criminal justice system.”

Title: Prison State: The Challenge of Mass Incarceration

Authors: Bert Useem and Anne M. Piehl (Cambridge University Press, 2008)

“A methodical and reliable empirical examination of U.S. prison policy...they present the data and the analysis to further the debate in a practical way that appreciates the human dimension of the growth in the use of imprisonment in America.”

Title: Behind Bars: Surviving Prison

Author: Jeffrey I. Ross and Stephen C. Richards (Alpha Press, 2002)

“Behind Bars describes life on the inside in terrifying detail...breaking down the bars on prison survival with a hard look at the realities of incarceration.”

Title: Making Good: How Ex-Convicts Reform and Rebuild Their Lives

Author: Shadd Maruna (American Psychological Association, 2001)

“Drawing on narratives of offenders (reformed and otherwise), Maruna provides valuable insight into the process by which ex-offenders reform. Making Good is a significant contribution to criminology that furthers our understanding of the psychology of crime.”

Title: Loss, Trauma and Resilience: Therapeutic Work with Ambiguous Loss

Author: Pauline Boss (Norton, 2006)

“Pauline Boss insightfully sees traumatic loss as a relational disorder and not an individual pathology...At a time when the violence and losses of war, terrorism and natural disasters [as well as the ambiguous loss of parents by children of the incarcerated] increasingly threaten to unravel the social fabric of entire communities, clinicians and humanitarian workers alike will welcome Boss’s clear guidelines for strengthening connections in families to better cope with the stress of such ambiguous and difficult situations and find new sources of meaning and hope.”

VIDEOS: EXPERIENCES OF CHILDREN WITH INCARCERATED PARENTS AND OFFENDER REENTRY

Video Title: A Sentence of Their Own

A Film by Edgar Barends (2001)

“Chronicles one family’s annual pilgrimage to a new Hampshire state prison, revealing the damaging impact incarceration has on families”

Video Title: Bill of Rights Video

San Francisco Children of Incarcerated Parents Project (2005)

A video with young people telling powerful stories about their experiences as youth with incarcerated parents

Video Title: Children of Incarcerated Parents Forum

TVW, 2007

“Forum on ‘Our Children, Our Communities, Our Responsibilities,’ presentation by Department of Corrections, including remarks by Nell Bernstein and young adults/adolescents of incarcerated parents.”

Video Title: Girl Scouts Beyond Bars

A video detailing the program Girl Scouts Beyond Bars, which offers girls with mothers in prison support and contact/visits with their incarcerated mothers.

Video title: From Locked Up to Locked Out

Aids Housing of Washington (2007)

A training resource for community organizations on effective reentry.

***Video Title: Offender Employment Services: Serving Customers with Conviction Histories
Part 1***

A video on serving clients with conviction histories in job training and employment programs

Video Title: Inmates Child Support Information

Division of Child Support (DSHS), Employment Security Department and Department of Corrections (2001)

A video for offenders on child support, and how to work with the Division of Child Support to modify child support orders in order to effectively manage child support debt.

Video Title: Implementing ESSB 6358

DSHS and DOC (June 2006)

This video is designed for staff and service providers in human services and corrections, detailing how social service and correctional staff can communicate legally and appropriately with one another about the service needs of inmates and ex-offenders.

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Please report broken links to: 360.902.7803

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